THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra, on the basis of a Resolution passed unanimously by both Houses of the State Legislature on 13.7.2006, has requested Government of India to take necessary steps to amend Article 371(2) of the Constitution to set up a separate Statutory Development Board for North Maharashtra covering the five districts of Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Nasik and Ahmednagar.

(c) The proposal is under examination.

Separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan

3167. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to amend Article 371 (2) (a) to set up Separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Government has received a Resolution passed on 20th February, 2005 by both the Houses of Maharashtra State Legislature recommending the establishment of a separate Development Board for Konkan region of the State. The Planning Commission, who were consulted in the matter, are of the view that backwardness by itself is not a reason for constitutional amendment as there are other instruments available to the Centre and State Governments to gear up their development machinery.

(c) Does not arise.

Intelligence report about prevalence of naxalism in Punjab

3168. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence agencies in Punjab has sent a report to Government about prevalence of naxalism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any firm steps to check the spread of naxalism in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) It may not be feasible or appropriate for Ministry of Home Affairs to comment on the Inputs provided from time to time by the Central and State Intelligence agencies.

No incident of naxalite violence or casualty of civillans or security personnel has been reported from Punjab during the last five years.